

long confused) are not found in the list of excluded species. If Dewey's *Festuca fluitans*, *Vicia sativa*, etc., are excluded why not the perfectly parallel *Eriophorum cespitosum*, *Sagittaria sagittifolia*, etc.?

It may be thought by some that a reviewer should overlook these and other weaknesses in the new *Flora of Berkshire County* and enlarge upon its accuracy. The latter quality, naturally, is what we have a right to expect from an author who has had unusual opportunities; and the degree to which it is attained can be determined only after prolonged use of the publication. But the very patent departures from accuracy and consistency, unfortunately, stand out prominently upon first examination and it is equally unfortunate that they reflect a tendency of many who feel themselves competent to publish upon geographic distribution,—the failure to realize that exact facts (on the whole easily ascertained) are alone of real and lasting value.

A NEW ENGLAND OCCURRENCE OF *LISTERA AUSTRALIS*.

H. W. CHILD.

IT gives me keen satisfaction to announce through *RHODORA* the finding, for the first time in New England, of *Listera australis*. The facts are these: In July 1921, Cyrus Pringle Horsford of Charlotte, Vermont, sent me a plant for identification. While the specimen reached me in poor condition, it was clearly a *Listera*, although certainly not *L. auriculata* or *L. convallarioides*. It seemed to me an unusual form of *L. cordata*.

On May 29th, 30th, and 31st, 1922, Mr. Lownes of Providence, R. I., Mr. Schweinfurth of Chestnut Hill, Mass., and I went to Vermont to find *Calypso bulbosa* and *Cypripedium arietinum*, it being the eighth year I have visited Vermont successfully for that purpose. Mr. Horsford went with us to the various places explored and, in fact, he located most of the plants for us. In Monkton, we found *Listera cordata* in full flower and Mr. Horsford at once said that the plant he had found in July 1921 was not the same species.

On July 29th, 30th and 31st, 1922, I was again in Vermont and at the suggestion of Mr. Horsford visited several most interesting localities, which proved very fruitful. On July 30th, we went to a bog to find some orchids which he knew were to be found there in great abundance. While I was preparing photographs of some of them, he said he would look around. In a short time he came to me with

a plant of *Listera australis*. Concerning the identification of this highly interesting find I think there can be no doubt whatever, it having been my privilege a few years ago to see live specimens of *L. australis* and to have in my collection of orchid photographs a fine print of the species made by Edward A. Eames, Esq., of Buffalo, New York.

Mr. Horsford was asked to show the spot where he gathered the plant and we put it back in its place. We then hunted for more and found four. Of these one was in good flower like the first, two were in fruit and one was a young plant that had no flower this year. The plants were all a little lighter in color than those Mr. Horsford had found in July 1921. When at their best, in a normal season a week or so earlier, they are, as Mr. Horsford states, almost purple.

Two of the plants in flower were photographed, one of them in its original station. All were then carefully packed and taken to Boston, where the plants in flower were again photographed to show the peculiar root system and bud. The plants were shown to Mr. Schweinfurth of the Oakes Ames Botanical Laboratory who made a careful study of them and confirmed the identification. The plants have been distributed as follows: one to the Gray Herbarium of Harvard University, one to the Herbarium of Oakes Ames, one to the New England Botanical Club, one to Mr. Charles Schweinfurth and on to Mrs. H. W. Child.

It seems to me that Mr. Horsford has reason for much pleasure and pride in adding one more to the *Orchidaceae* of New England. It is wise for the present to withhold any information as to the locality until a careful survey can be made to establish the exact range and the number of plants that can be found. I think the matter can be safely intrusted to Mr. Horsford, who is most capable and thoroughly acquainted with the entire territory.

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